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## Editorial

Alain DUBOIS

Laboratoire des Reptiles et Amphibiens,  
Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle,  
25 rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, France

Following the workshop on "Declining amphibian populations – a global phenomenon?" held in Irvine (California, USA) on 19-20 February 1990 (see WAKE et al., 1991) and the subsequent foundation of the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force (DAPTF), the study of amphibian population declines and of their causes has become a major research field (see review in ALFORD & RICHARDS, 1999). The scientific literature dealing with these questions has been dispersed in various periodicals. The quarterly journal *Froglog*, published by DAPTF, regularly provides reviews and bibliographic lists regarding this field of research. Until now, the journal *Alytes* has seldom been used as an outlet for the publication of such reports. This is unfortunate, as *Alytes* is the only journal in the world entirely dedicated to the publication of scientific works dealing with amphibians, and as the International Society for the Study and Conservation of Amphibians (ISSCA), the non-profit association that publishes this journal, has among its statutory aims "to contribute, on a world scale (...) to the conservation of Amphibians and to that of their environment" (ANONYMOUS, 1994: 62). In order to call attention to the possibility of publishing papers dealing with amphibian declining populations, and, more generally, with all problems related with the conservation biology of amphibians, the ISSCA Board has decided to create a third position of Editor for the journal, that of Conservation Editor, Stephen J. Richards (Adelaide, Australia) has agreed to take on this responsibility. All amphibian biologists working on questions related to the conservation of amphibians, to declining populations, their causes and possible remedies, are warmly invited to submit their manuscripts to Steve. From now on, manuscripts intended for *Alytes* can be submitted to three different editors, who will care for their submission to referees, for correspondence with the authors and for the final decision regarding them:

- Alain Dubois (Laboratoire des Reptiles et Amphibiens, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 25 rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, France; <dubois@mnhn.fr>) for any paper dealing with amphibian morphology, anatomy, systematics, biogeography, evolution, genetics, anomalies or developmental biology;
- Thierry Lodé (Laboratoire d'Ecologie animale, Université d'Angers, 2 boulevard Lavoisier, 49045 Angers Cedex, France; <thierry.lode@univ-angers.fr>) for any paper dealing with amphibian population genetics, ecology, ethology or life history;
- Stephen J. Richards (Vertebrates Department, South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A. 5000, Australia; <Richards.Steve@saugov.sa.gov.au>) for any paper dealing with declining amphibian populations, amphibian pathology, and more generally with all matters related to amphibian conservation biology.

Another recent decision of the ISSCA Board has been to act for more regularity in the publication of *Alytes*. From now on, and for an undetermined number of years, the journal will be published as two double (or one single and one triple) issues per year, at fixed dates, in May and November. This schedule will be maintained irrespective of the number of papers and pages accepted for publication at these dates. The result will be that some issues (like this one) will be somewhat thin, while others (like next one) will be much thicker: despite this, all effort will be made to provide subscribers and readers with our usual number of 200 pages or more per year. Hopefully, this change in the publication schedule of the journal will be appreciated by our subscribers: from now on, it will be possible to foresee the dates of publication of the journal, instead of receiving it suddenly at unexpected dates. Our readers are welcome to let us know their feelings about these new changes in our journal, just before it reaches the age of 20!

## LITERATURE CITED

- ANONYMOUS, 1994. – Statutes and Internal Regulations of ISSCA. *Circalytes*, 6 (6): 49-84.  
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